

6. AN ALBINO WOOD SANDPIPER (*TRINGA GLAREOLA*)

Among the many waders which visit us on the River Aji just behind the Central Jail is a very unusual bird—a pure white, Spotted Sandpiper. It is not a complete albino because its bill and iris are black and legs greenish instead of pink.

This spot is unique for waders, for seated comfortably on a broad rock, a birdwatcher can see a large variety of waders all together, a not to be underrated advantage when one considers the confusing appearance of these birds. On a normal day in winter all forms of sandpipers may be in a binocular's field—*Tringa glareola*, *T. ochropus*, *T. hypoleucos*, *T. totanus*, *T. erythropus* and *T. stagnatalis*! In addition there will be Little Stints (*Calidris minutus*), Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*). On occasions Curlew Sandpipers (*Calidris testacea*) and Dunlin (*C. alpina*) jostle among the rest providing ideal possibilities of noting identity contrasts. Besides these, always present are other water-side birds like plovers, crakes, ducks, grebes, terns, wagtails, etc., but the attraction of the place, notwithstanding the smell of the effluent polluting the water, are the winter waders.

RAJKUMAR COLLEGE,

RAJKOT,

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7. UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF THE PURPLE SUNBIRD,
NECTARINIA ASIATICA (LATHAM)

On the afternoon of 22 May, 1968, I noticed a female Purple Sunbird, *Nectarinia asiatica* (Latham) clinging on to a nightgown hung on the clothes-line just outside our living room. After pecking at the fabric between two folds she flew away. A closer look revealed that she was apparently trying to build a nest and I found a collection of cobwebs with three small egg cocoons. It was late that day to make closer observations and in the night my wife removed the gown.

The following morning, before starting for work, I put an old canvas (the type used on deck chairs) on the clothes-line, exactly in the place where the gown had been, and arranged it in such a way